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MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that people who are already working this Act are not on the Committee to give their advice or suggestion? ”

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ The Government are not aware of it but on further consideration if it is found a new Committee is to be formed, the Government will consider that.”

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ Questions over.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. CHAIRMAN RE ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ I have to announce to the House that the following candidates were nominated for election to the State Library Committee :—

(1) Sri Alexander Gnanamuttu, M.L.C.

(2) Sri E. H. Parameswaran, M.L.C.

“ As more than one member has been duly nominated, the House will proceed to elect a member by ballot. The election will be held in the Deputy Secretary's room between 11 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 9th July. After getting his ballot paper, each member is requested to record his vote and deposit his voting paper in the ballot box provided for the purpose.”

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—cont.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—“ I must inform the House that many hon. Members wish to speak on the Budget. Therefore, I request hon. Members to be as brief in their observations as possible and there are only two days left for general discussion.”

* JANAB MAHOMED USMAN :—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the Hon. Chief Minister on the policy of decontrol of foodgrains which he introduced soon after he assumed office. Sir, at one time we had thought that controls would become a permanent feature of the administration. When I was a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, control was introduced. At that time there was a great deal of hesitation and a great deal of doubt whether control would ever be a success in a country like India. Of course, during war-time it was necessary to have controls but after the war was over these controls ought to have been removed. Sir, we all know what amount of corruption there has been on account of controls. It is a matter for congratulation that control has been abolished and decontrol has been introduced. I am glad to say, Sir, that the policy which has been inaugurated by Rajaji has been followed in other States. I think, Bihar has decontrolled foodgrains. Yesterday, we read in the papers that Mysore has also decontrolled foodgrains.

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It is a good thing that the Government have removed controls. But for the presence of the Hon. the Chief Minister in the Government this would not have been possible. If the Congress Party had been returned with an over-all majority in the Assembly in the recent elections, most probably they would have elected a leader from among themselves and he would not have had that boldness and courage, as was shown by Rajaji, to introduce decontrol. Therefore, it is a matter for congratulation that Rajaji's services have been requisitioned by the Congress Party because they rightly thought that he, and he alone could form a stable Government. It is also a matter for congratulation that Rajaji has formed a stable Government. After decontrol has been introduced, there is now a free flow of rice in the market. There is a tendency for the prices to come down. It has been pointed out that in some districts, decontrol has not been a complete success and that it has caused some difficulties and hardship to the people. Sir, no great movement can succeed without certain difficulties. But, I am sure, the Government will look into this matter and see that they are properly tackled so that ultimately decontrol may succeed.

" Now, Sir, I come to Prohibition. There has been some criticism with regard to the policy of Prohibition. Some hon. Members said that Prohibition has been a failure. I do not think, Prohibition is a failure at all. A great majority of people like Prohibition. We know that there has been illicit distillation and corrupt practices. All these corrupt practices will go with the present generation which has been brought up in that alcoholic atmosphere. Of course, there may be some people who may be adopting some surreptitious means to get drinks. But these things have to be put down. I am sure, these things will not last long, for the next generation will be brought up in a purer atmosphere free from drink. Therefore, whatever may be the difficulties in implementing the policy of Prohibition, I am sure, no Government should ever consider the question of abolishing Prohibition at all.

" Now, Sir, I come to a very important matter. As we all know, Madras had experienced very great difficulties this year on account of water famine. Of course, due to the recent rains, a great relief has come to this City and we have staved off the water famine. But we must not rest content with that. On the other hand, we must take some positive measures to see that such difficulties do not occur again in the future. Various schemes have been put forth and, in my opinion, the only scheme that is possible and which will be able to supply water throughout the year, is the Krishna-Pennar Project. I was rather astonished to hear the argument advanced by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramakrishna, yesterday that the Andhra people will object to the execution of this scheme on the ground that their waters are being diverted to Tamil areas. I do not understand the cogency of this argument. Of course, it is quite possible that this water from the proposed Krishna-Pennar Project may be used in Madras by non-Andhras who constitute about 60 per cent of the population in this City. But it is common knowledge that in this City there is a considerable percentage of Andhras—say

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about 40 per cent—and certainly they will not grudge taking water from the Andhra areas. I do not think the Andhras will be so ungenerous as to deny to their brethren in this City water to drink. Therefore, I do not see anything in the argument of my hon. Friend, Sri Ramakrishna. I hope the Government will see to it that the Krishna-Pennar Project becomes a reality.

“ Now, Sir, I come to the Children's Aid Society. I have been taking interest during the last 25 or 30 years in the working of this Society in Madras. I see in the Budget that about Rs. 10 lakhs has been provided for Certified Schools, etc. As President of the Madras Children's Aid Society, I am grateful to the Governments—both the past and the present—for the generous grants that they have given to the Children's Aid Society. As you all know, this Society is running Homes in this City for the uplift of the uncared orphans, destitute children and juvenile offenders. In the whole of this State there is only one Children's Aid Society and that is in Madras. I think, more such Societies should be encouraged in the State to come forward through the non-official agency. Also, unless and until the Government make up their mind to spend larger sums of money, I think, there is no hope for them to come forward. If anybody cares to visit the Homes run by this Society, he will see what amount of humanitarian work the Society has been doing to these unfortunate children to prevent them from falling into crime.

“ Coming to the Budget proper, I must say that this budget is one that has been specially prepared for the advancement of the welfare of this State. Some may object to this budget but on the other hand, I welcome it. Of course, new taxes have been proposed in this budget. People must know that these taxes are intended for the good of the country. Therefore, nobody should grudge paying extra taxes. People should be prepared to sacrifice for the good of the country. Sir, I am glad to read from the newspapers that the Hon. Finance Minister has assured the other House that he would look into this matter again. I do not know what he meant by that. In connexion with the Taxation Bills, I think it is better to have a Select Committee consisting of members belonging to all parties so that an agreed solution might be found possible. Sir, for all taxation measures, there must be an agreed and reasonable solution. I do not want to take much time of the House as the Hon. Chairman has told us that many members wish to speak.

“ Sir, I should like to say one more thing. As has been pointed out by Sri Ramaswami Reddiar, we must have a stable Government to carry on the administration of this State. Now a dangerous movement is coming into existence and the Government should see to it that they not only carry on the administration but also protect religion and godliness in this country. Sir, we have been hearing a lot about the Communist menace for the last so many days. We do not want them in our country. We have heard of their misdeeds and their irreligion. India is a land of religion. There is no place in it for irreligion. India is famous for its spirituality. India is

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famous for having produced so many famous religious teachers. It has a distinct holy past of its own, and it is but proper that we preserve those traditions and keep our country as religious as it had been in the past. So all those who believe in religion and God should combine and support the Government."

* SRI V. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been so much discussion and that from so many differing viewpoints with reference to the revised budget proposals brought forward by the Government that I propose to content myself with making only a few observaions on them.

" At the outset, Sir, I would like to associate myself most heartily with the congratulations offered to the Hon. Chief Minister and the other Hon. Ministers as regards three or four important orders that they have passed in the short period they have now been in office. The first and foremost of them is, of course, the abolition of rationing of foodgrains and along with it procurement. This reform has put an end to a large amount of corruption in the ranks of the Government staff who were in charge of these functions. It has also removed the hardships of the general public in getting their supplies of food as well as the necessity to which most of them had been put, namely, resorting to blackmarketing and other objectionable tactics. Derationing has given very great satisfaction to all and has earned deserved popularity to the present Cabinet. There has been no opposition to derationing from any party, but in one or two quarters there was a tendency to minimize the importance of the reform by saying that it was nothing great or extraordinary. I venture to think, Sir, that no Government, not presided over by such an able, bold and gripping personality as Rajaji, would have had the courage to effect it, especially in the face of the famine conditions which stared and still stares the Government in Rayalaseema and other parts of the State.

" The second beneficial act of the Government which deserves appreciation is the grant of substantial relief to the non-gazetted officers, employees of local bodies drawing Rs. 300 and less per mensem, as well as to the aided school teachers, by way of full-fee concessions for their children in elementary and lower secondary schools and half-fee concessions in high schools. One can realize the value and the importance of this concession, if one remembers that it is estimated to cost Rs. 50 lakhs and perhaps more for this year. I have no doubt that, as hoped for by the Government, the beneficiaries will feel thankful to the Government for this generous measure of relief to them in these hard days.

" Then, Sir, I consider that the immediate stopping of assignment of lands to political sufferers, as such, very much deserves our appreciation. I happen to know personally that many poor people were deprived of their sivoijama lands for granting them to political sufferers. But I shall not dilate on this subject in view of the definite statement made by the Hon. Chief Minister in this House yesterday that the whole policy of assignment of lands to political sufferers is now 'dead'.

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" I may then congratulate the Government on the reliefs provided to the handloom weavers who have been hard hit, and also on the other benevolent measures started by them within the short time they have been in office. The general public greatly appreciate the present policy and tone of the Government and I have every hope that everything possible will be done for the welfare and prosperity of the people of this State during the period the present Ministry continues in office. I appeal, Sir, to all Members and parties in this House and in the Assembly not to put obstacles in the way of a good and stable Government. They should on the other hand strengthen the hands of the present Government, with Rajaji as its head, in all directions, to enable them to achieve the lasting welfare and prosperity of this State within the shortest period.

" Now, Sir, coming to the budget which has been placed before us, it has been said that it only follows the usual routine and that there is nothing extraordinary in it. But, Sir, nobody seems to have claimed that this was an extraordinary budget. Nor is it necessary, Sir, that there must be something extraordinary in a budget. What then is the purpose or meaning of the criticism that the budget only follows the usual routine? It may be remembered in this connexion that the provisional budget for the year was framed by the previous Ministry. The present Ministry have only made it up to date and finalised it. The Ministry had difficulty in making the revised proposals in view especially of the urgent demand for relief rendered necessary by the severe famine in Rayalaseema on the one side and the recent slump in industry and trade which has gone to reduce substantially the receipts expected from the sales tax on the other side. The revised estimates have been drafted as carefully as possible, and the Ministry deserves our congratulations for the same.

" Now, Sir, I shall proceed to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government. My first and foremost suggestion is that greater efforts should be made for the betterment of our villages by providing them with greater facilities and convenience, in respect of agriculture, which is the main occupation of the villagers and with useful cottage industries to suit local conditions, so that the villagers may make the best use of their enforced leisure (when there is no agricultural work) and make a subsidiary income to keep themselves above want. I know there is a department called the Department of Agriculture intended to advise and help the agriculturists. But this department has not been able to help the villagers to a satisfactory or appreciable extent. The agriculturists are simply driven from post to pillar and from pillar to post, for getting their necessary requirements, for the cultivation of their lands as for instance, the iron needed for their ploughs and cart tyres.

" The Firka Development and Cottage Industries Departments are also working for the benefit of the villagers. But I cannot say that the work that is done by these two departments is commensurate with the large expenditure incurred on them by the Government. There is much room for improvement in the working of

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these two departments. Firka Development Scheme has been introduced only in certain specific firkas and the work which has been done there is not very striking. I have visited many firkas in which this scheme is worked. I am not satisfied that the departments in question have been able to achieve results worth appreciation. I would suggest to the Government respectfully that the improvement of the villages and firkas may be taken up as a general question not merely in selected firkas but in the whole State so that everybody may know what is being done for the benefit of the villagers. I would suggest that the ordinary revenue officials themselves be put in charge of what is now being done for the development of villages, by the firka development and by the department of cottage industries. It may be said that the revenue officials are already over-worked and it will not be possible for them to look after this work also. In that case, I would suggest that the districts be divided into a larger number of divisions with a responsible officer for each division. In that way it will be possible for each officer to look after the needs and requirements of the residents of the division in his charge. At present there are a number of departments in every district, of which, most of us are not even aware. There are officers by various names. Only two days ago it was mentioned here that there are officers called efficiency officers. Few of us knew the existence of such officers or their functions or work. The Government have stated that they were considering the abolition of these efficiency officers. There are a number of officers working in the district, whose designations many people do not know and whose functions they are not aware of, notwithstanding the reports which those officers must presumably have been submitting to Government periodically about the work turned out by them. I suggest to the Government that their administrative machinery may be placed on a simpler and more satisfactory basis. Government should take up this work and find out at least now, how many departments may be abolished and how many officers may be dispensed with in the interests of economy, without impairing efficiency. It is better to have a single officer to whom the villagers may look for the redress of their grievances and to supply their wants. At present if a villager wants anything to be done he is generally in the dark as to whom he should approach. If he goes to one officer, he is asked to go to another officer, who directs him to go to a third officer and so on. From this one can imagine what amount of expenditure and difficulty an ordinary villager is put to. I know that ordinary agriculturists have been put to serious difficulties to get the most necessary things required to carry on their occupation. I think it must be possible for the Government to do away with the present system which is so complex and so expensive. Simplification of the Government machinery will, I think, result in great saving to the Government. There was a proposal some time ago to abolish the cadre of Tahsildars and have only Deputy Collectors in the districts with smaller divisions. I submit it is worthwhile for the Government to go into this question now and find out whether Tahsildars are necessary at all and whether the system of having Revenue Divisional Officers

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in direct charge of divisions making them smaller, if necessary, will not be better. The Divisional Officers will be able to give more effective help to those who come to them and pass final orders without delay. There is also the costly establishment of the Board of Revenue for the abolition of which agitation has been carried on for many many decades. I know that recently in answering a question the Government said that they had considered the question and decided to retain the Board of Revenue. I think, Sir, there is need for a further consideration of this matter. With the Collector in charge of each district and the Government and the Secretariat at the head, I do not see why an intermediary office like the Board of Revenue is necessary. The Board of Revenue was established during the days of the British rule and I think the circumstances under which it was established have now ceased to exist and it is high time that the Board of Revenue is abolished altogether and the Government take direct charge of the work in the districts through Collectors and Deputy Collectors. This will be a great reform in the machinery of the Government and also a measure of economy.

“ Then, Sir, I will mention a word about primary education and education in general. Of course, Sir, the system of education which we have been following for so many years has prejudicially affected the conditions of our villages. It is the chief cause for the ruination, if I may say so, of our villages. If you go to our villages now, you will find that all the intelligent, capable and able persons have left the villages and a large number of houses in them are deserted. Those left behind are generally the inefficient and the infirm. That is the position of the villages now. Not long ago, even as recently as about fifty years ago, I know the condition of the villages. If a comparison is made between the state of the villages about fifty years ago and now the comparison will be all against the present conditions. The villages have ceased to be prosperous and poverty is rampant. They have got into a vicious circle. Cultured and intelligent people do not find it worthwhile or possible to go and settle down in the villages with the result that the condition of the villages is getting worse and worse. Something must be done to remedy these defects. As the late Father of our Nation used to say, our country consists of villages and our prosperity lies in our villages. There was a time when our villages flowed with milk and honey but now you cannot find a drop of milk, not to speak of honey, because all the milk flows into the towns nearby and there is no milk left in the villages and the village children are starved. The physical condition of the villagers has been deteriorating from year to year and from day to day. It is curious to see that whereas milk is brought down from the mufassal to Madras, milk powder is being sent from Madras to the villages in order to make the powder into milk and give them to the villagers. One can understand it if the surplus of milk in the villages is sent to the towns or cities nearby but starving the villagers of this necessity of life, especially the children, and sending it away to the City is the real position as it exists now. It is high time indeed that the Government did something at once to advance the condition of the villages and make the villages more prosperous.

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As regards elementary education, I do not know how far basic or craft centred education, for which Gandhiji claimed that it could pay a substantial portion of the expenses incurred has progressed in this State. When the Father of the Nation was alive he was propagating that idea and doing a great deal to popularize it. I know that, in fact, in some States like Bihar basic education has made great advances but in Madras I do not think it has yet been taken up earnestly. I would suggest to the present Government to take up this question actively. The problem of elementary education or universal elementary education cannot be solved unless some system by which the cost of the primary education can be very much reduced is adopted. We may spend crores but under the existing system more and more crores of rupees will become necessary. The teachers have to be paid and their demands are becoming greater and greater—I am not blaming them—on account of the conditions of modern life. They have to earn more in order to keep themselves above want. The present system of primary education, I say, is unnatural and ought to be put an end to and the alternative system of craft-centred education introduced in its place. They say it will pay either the whole—Gandhiji claimed that it would pay the whole cost of it in six years—of the cost or at least a good part of it if properly organized. There is no doubt about it. The system of education by which the villages were served in former days has gone. In my village I first began my education in a pial school which cost nothing. The teacher was fed and looked after by the villagers and there was therefore not much expense, to the Government or to anybody for maintaining a school. The education given in the pial schools was practical and benefited the pupils in later life. Now, the child in the village as soon as he finishes his fifth or sixth year has very often to go to a town or an equally important place, at some distance, even to have his primary education which has also become costly. I think this question of basic education deserves the serious consideration of Government.

“ Then, Sir, one word about the social service organizations. After the New Constitution, as everybody is aware, the Government have become a Welfare State. They have to look after the social welfare of the people. The Government have to elevate the social position and condition of the people. But, Sir, the Government by its own unaided efforts will not be able to solve the question of social uplift. There are many respectable organizations which are working for the social welfare of the masses both in the City and in the mufassal. There are organizations which have also branches and do excellent work both here and in the districts. I would appeal to the Government to take note of such of the organizations as are doing useful work in the field of social welfare and take them into their confidence, assist them with their advice and help them. Government must give them all encouragement so that they could do more and more devoted work. Now-a-days there are a number of people who are forthcoming and willing to sacrifice the whole or part of their time and energy in

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order to do this service to humanity and it is the duty of the Government to avail themselves of it. Unless the Government give them encouragement and advice, take them into their confidence and consult them upon the social work that ought to be done, I think the problem of the social uplift of our masses will never be satisfactorily solved. I want this point to be borne in mind by the Government. There are some very well known social organizations which have been working for a number of years—for decades—in the cause of social uplift, and I would ask the Government to give them opportunities for extending their work. I do not want the Government to give an opportunity to anybody and everybody who says or who claims to be a social welfare worker. Let them look into the antecedents and the work that an organization has been doing and, if they find that it has been doing substantial good work and where people who are well-to-do and well connected are doing some unselfish work or are sacrificing their time and energy, it is up to the Government to take their help, help them in return and encourage them in their social work. This is one of the points which I would press upon the Government.

"I come next, Sir, to the question of the additional taxation that has been proposed in the Budget. In connexion with these proposals for additional taxation, it has been suggested that Prohibition should be scrapped and the income which it might bring should be used to meet the deficit in the Budget. With reference to this, I would strongly urge on the Government not to yield to the suggestions made from the other side that Prohibition should be scrapped. Prohibition is one of the subjects on which the Father of the Nation held very strong opinions. In an article which was written in 1937 before the introduction of Prohibition the Father of our Nation said :

'Let it be remembered that this drink and drugs revenue is a form of extremely degrading taxation. All taxation to be healthy must return tenfold to the tax-payer in the form of necessary services. Excise makes people pay for their own corruption, moral, mental and physical. It falls like a dead-weight on those who are least able to bear it. The revenue is largely derived, I believe, from industrial labour which together with field labour the Congress almost exclusively represents.

'The loss of revenue is only apparent. Removal of this degrading tax enables the drinker, i.e., the tax-payer to earn and spend better. Apart, therefore, from the tremendous gain, it means a substantial economic gain to the nation.'

I would request all those who claim to represent the masses to ponder over these observations and consider whether the Government should get money through drink to spend it on any other purpose.

"Again, he says :

'The cry of great expenditure in preventing illicit distillation is thoughtless where it is not hypocritical. India is not America. The American example is a hindrance rather than a help to us. In America 'drinking carries no shame with it. It is the fashion there to drink. It reflects the greatest credit on the determined minority in America that by sheer force of its moral weight it was able to carry through the Prohibition measure, however shortlived it was. I do not regard that experiment to have been a failure. I do not despair of America,

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once more returning to it with still greater fervour and better experience in dealing with it. It may be that if India carries out Prohibition it will hasten the advent of Prohibition in America. In no part of the world is Prohibition as easy to carry out as in India, for with us it is only a minority that drinks. Drinking is generally considered respectable. And there are millions, I believe, who have never known what drink is.

• But why should prevention of illicit distillation cost any more than prevention of other crimes? I should make illicit distillation heavily punishable and think no more about it. Some of it will go on perhaps till Doomsday as thieving will. I would not set up a special agency to pry into illicit distilleries. But I would punish anyone found drunk though not disorderly (in the legal sense) in streets or other public places with a substantial fine or alternatively with indeterminate imprisonment to end when the erring one has earned his or her keep.

• This, however, is the negative part. Voluntary organizations especially manned by women will work in the labour areas. They will visit those who are addicted to drink and try to wean them from the habit. Employers of labour will be expected by law to provide cheap, healthy refreshment, reading and entertainment rooms where the working men can go and find shelter, knowledge, health-giving food and drink and innocent fun.

• Thus Prohibition means a type of adult education of the nation and not merely a closing down of grog shops."

I respectfully submit that it is a very wrong thing for people who claim to espouse the cause of the masses to try to reopen this question of Prohibition.

"I shall now say a few words about the taxation proposals 5 p.m. of the Government. I think, Sir, the Bill to provide for the levy of a surcharge on land revenue assessment, as has been published, is open to grave objections. I will not profess to speak about the condition of cultivators and landholders in delta areas; but I can speak about their condition in dry areas with some knowledge. I am myself a small landholder in the Chingleput district. I can say without any hesitation that this Bill will practically 'kill' the cultivators. I know cases of people giving away their lands being unable to pay taxes due to Government. However, if the Government must levy a surcharge on land revenue, I suggest that they be satisfied with the recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee which itself has gone far enough in all conscience in the matter of the rates and the stages at which the surcharge on land revenue should be levied. I would respectfully appeal to the Government to accept the report of that Committee, at least as a sort of compromise, so that they may get some revenue and at the same time they may not put too great a burden upon the poor cultivators.

"Sir, there are one or two other proposals for additional taxation. There is a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax by way of surcharge on fares paid for being carried in buses. There are many complaints from the travelling public that they will be unable to pay the excess levy. I understand that a person paying a bus fare of Rs. 1-8-0 now will have to pay at least Rs. 2 if the additional charge proposed in this Bill is levied. This means an increase of about 33 per cent over the present rate. If it cannot be avoided, I would agree even to this increase in bus fares; because if a person is unable to pay the increased bus fare, it will at least be open to him to escape from it by avoiding the bus

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'walking out the distance.' Therefore I will not strongly oppose this increase although I may not support it. But so far as the surcharge on land revenue is concerned, I would strongly plead against it. Personally for the last seven years, I have been paying kist on my lands to Government getting nothing out of them. This may be due to the bad seasonal conditions we have had, but even in normal days it is very difficult for agriculturists at least in dry areas to make both ends meet. Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government at least not to go beyond the recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall not spend the little time at my disposal by offering congratulations to the Ministers for having decontrolled foodgrains or for having made concessions to the Non-Gazetted Officers. But I should like to refer to one or two matters with regard to decontrol of foodgrains which should not be overlooked. This decontrol policy of the Government has received a magnificent response from the people themselves. The cultivator now feels a sense of freedom and relief. He has received this policy with great pleasure. He is now more or less induced to grow more food with a feeling that what he grows is his own. Hitherto he has been feeling that he is growing food, not only for himself but also for the Government. He has now got the feeling that he is growing it for himself. As a result of this policy I expect that there will be an increase in the production of foodgrains in this State. There has been otherwise also an upsurge of moral feeling in respect of this matter. I understand that a movement has been started somewhere in the district of Tanjore by mirasdars to sell paddy to consumers only at the rate of not more than five kalams of paddy at a time so that all persons who are really in need of paddy may get it. If such a feeling spreads all over this State, I think it will be possible for the people to get food as cheaply as possible. The present satisfactory state of affairs ought to continue. I do not know what will be the position of the persons who are out for exploiting the situation in about six months from this date. I do not know whether they will take advantage of the situation that may be created in six months and raise the prices of foodgrains. It is up to the Government to watch the situation very carefully and see that unscrupulous persons do not take advantage of the situation and raise the prices of foodgrains to the general disadvantage of the public.

"I consider that the Non-Gazetted Officers deserve the concessions granted by the Government. This concession in respect of education must be widespread and must be given to all persons who are too poor to pay the school fees of their children.

"Sir, I strongly support the plea made on the floor of this House that a rural bias should be given to the Budget. It is a matter, Sir, that is worth consideration. People from the villages come to the towns because they have not got the necessary amenities or facilities for schooling their children. Therefore I strongly appeal to the Government to take early steps for

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the purpose of what I would call 'urbanizing villages', by providing the necessary amenities to induce the people to remain there. Even persons who are hereditary cultivators send their sons out with ambitions to secure for them jobs in Government service. Therefore the village is suffering by depletion of capacity and talent, and it is necessary to stock the village with fresh talent. It is hardly just to ask young men in their youth to go back to villages sacrificing all their ambitions and giving up their little pleasures in cities. Therefore I should like the older people to take up this burden. I suggest, Sir, that the pensioned Government officers must be induced to settle in villages. I think it is possible to do that by giving them a small allowance, called 'village allowance.' Persons who are living on pensions owe a duty to the Government. Though they have done their duty by serving the Government for 30 years, still in the evening of their lives they may devote some portion of their time for village work. It must be done and it can be done, if possible, by giving them inducement. Somehow it must be made possible for them to live in villages. I know there are also difficulties. A friend of mine went and settled in a village. There were two factions in that village and in a quarrel between them, as an arbitrator, he had to decide in favour of one party. Subsequently, he was involved in a big case started by the other faction and he had to leave the village. I should like to point out to the Government that they should take steps for the rejuvenation of all villages. I should like my suggestions to be considered by the Government if they really feel that there is something in them.

"I should also like in this connexion to refer to the Firka Development Schemes and Community Projects which are now being worked out. They may go a little way in helping the villagers to stand on their own legs. As regards the Village Firka Development Scheme, a Revenue Inspector or an official is appointed by the Government to carry out these schemes though he is not the person who can do the work properly. These schemes require persons who believe in village work. The officials now in charge live in villages for a few months or years, always looking ahead for their own promotions in the service to which they belong. And when they are transferred on promotion, all the experiences gained by them are lost.

"This work must be taken up by people who have some enthusiasm for village uplift. It may be difficult to find such persons but there are persons with a predilection for this sort of work. There are also persons retired from service who have no promotion to look to and they can devote themselves exclusively to this kind of work.

"I should like to refer to the administration of Justice. Arrears, especially in the High Court, have mounted up. I had the figures with me but I have not got them now, but from memory, I can tell the House that there are 3,133 first appeals pending, 6,000 odd second appeals and 3,000 odd civil revision applications pending. These are accumulations which have

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mounted up during the course of the last three years. It is not as if the Judges are not doing their best. They are sitting in the Courts from 10-45 a.m. to 4-45 p.m. but with all their best work, they are not able to dispose of cases equal to the number of cases instituted. There is also another question which has recently arisen. There is a new jurisdiction that has been conferred upon them which entails a lot of work. Writs are filed and one Judge has to sit at it all round the year and he is not able to cope with the work. I also foresee a time when there will be many appeals coming before the High Court under the Estates Abolition Act. It would have to be disposed of by a Bench because that is what is required by the statute. If two Judges are taken out of their other duties on account of these appeals, the general work will certainly suffer and I should like the matter to be looked into. My suggestion to the Government is that there is a provision for the appointment of *ad hoc* Judges for the disposal of certain kinds of work; they will have really to be selected from the retired Judges, not retired long ago but recently, so that they may not be out of touch with Court work and they may dispose of the special kind of work, namely, the writs, and the appeals under the Estates Abolition Act, etc.

"I would like to make one small suggestion to the Hon. the Minister for Finance. The Court Fees Act is an old Act and attempts have been made from time to time to amend the Act. A special officer, Sri R. Satyamurthi was appointed to go into the question and submit his Report. His Report, an excellent Report of 300 pages, is before the Government. The Report was referred to the High Court for their opinion and it has been obtained. The Board of Revenue were consulted and their views are also there and some senior Collectors were also asked about it and everything is ready. Very good suggestions for the purpose of suitably amending this Act are before us. I am not suggesting that the fees should be enhanced or things like that. Already, there is very heavy expense involved in litigation and I will not suggest any increase, but I would suggest that there is much room for levelling up inequalities. I can assure the Hon. the Finance Minister that by that means the finances of the State will not suffer but, on the other hand, it will be benefited to the extent of a few lakhs of rupees. For that purpose, I suggest that a small committee must be appointed with a view to see that ambiguities and anomalies are removed. If such ambiguities and anomalies are removed, then a lot of time of the courts will be saved and the Government for their part will also be benefited. The courts will be saved from the bother of going into the question whether a particular fee paid is all right or a higher fee is required and the court will be free of the bother of going into such questions if we go into the matter.

"As the Hon. the Minister for Finance has observed, there is a deficit of about Rs. 3½ crores and as a Member belonging to the party in power, I should certainly support the proposals put forward by the Government to meet the situation caused by a

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deficit. In this matter, we, sitting in this House, are under certain limitations. We have no right of moving any cut motions or making any proposition how taxes should be levied or altered. But the general discussion of the Budget by us affords us an opportunity to make helpful suggestions to the Government and I think it is equally incumbent upon the Government to take note of them and give them their earnest consideration. It has been suggested on the floor of this House and elsewhere that the only escape from these taxes is the cancellation of Prohibition. I know some people have been saying that there is a lot of evasion of the Prohibition law and it has not been properly and strictly enforced and therefore it should be scrapped. Let me tell the House, Sir, that I strongly believe in Prohibition. Evasions, let me tell the House, there are in any criminal law. Take the Indian Penal Code or any other criminal law; there are the Magistrates and the Police, but still offences are being committed to the extent of lakhs but do we say on that account: 'There are so many thefts, so many dacoities, so many murders in spite of this law and therefore, we have not been able to prevent them'. Therefore can we say: 'Let us abolish the criminal law altogether?' No. So also here, that there have been evasions is not a sufficient ground for thinking of abolishing Prohibition. The only thing that we have to do is that we shall have to be somewhat careful in the matter of selection of personnel for the enforcement of Prohibition. I know there is a certain section of the people who ridicule Prohibition and for that purpose take advantage of any report of transgression that is published in the newspapers, as though by that they prove that the generality of people commit Prohibition offences. But that is not the case; only nine or ten per cent who are old addicts and who could not do without it commit the offences. The number of those that drink has been considerably reduced. My suggestion in regard to this matter will be for the appointment of a small committee to consider the question of the relaxation of rules, something in the nature of exemptions or permits for them, at least for the purpose of rationing out drink to such persons as cannot do without it. Then all the difficulties will be solved. A committee of this nature can surely devise ways and means for accomplishing this purpose. Everybody is agreed that Prohibition is good. Ask any woman and she will tell you it has done her family a lot of good. Men may hold different views but the women are all in favour of Prohibition. No relaxation should be made except to the limited extent I have mentioned. I do not want to go into the moral aspect of the question as I am only considering the practical aspect of what steps should be taken to make Prohibition a success.

"About the question of retrenchment, it must be very welcome because that would give lakhs of rupees for putting through our social work. It will not really help if we abolish a few posts of peons and other lower grade posts here and there. Two or three things must in this connection be considered by the Government. One concerns the question of compulsory retirement at the age of fifty-five. Now in these days when there is so much of scientific

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advancement and when the standard of life has been considerably improved, it is possible for persons beyond the age of fifty-five to continue to give good service, till they attain sixty years of age. The conditions of service for retirement was laid down by the British Government because they wanted to go back home and it was considered that what was good for the European officers was good for the Indian servants also. As a matter of fact, we see quite a number of superannuated people going about their jobs. If we continue them in employment, there are two advantages, one is that the treasury will be considerably relieved of its commitments; it has now to pay not only the pension but also the pay of the incoming individual whereas if we continue such a person in service, the State will have the advantage of the accumulated experience that the person had gained during his long period of service. That is one thing which has to be taken into consideration. At the outset, there will be some opposition that promotions are hampered but after a time, things will adjust themselves and there will be no room for complaint. It is my sincere view that if all the Government servants will conscientiously and sincerely do their work from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. half the number will do. Supervision is not proper and there is no real grit on the part of the officers and because of this a large staff has become necessary. I should like better and rigorous supervision and I feel that if really people put their heart into their work and give the best of their energy for the purpose of Government work, not so much of staff will be necessary and considerable retrenchment could be effected. And that must be done in spite of unpopularity.

“About the question of surcharge on land revenue, it has to be remembered that agriculture at best is not a profitable concern and it does not yield much to the cultivator and when you are going to levy a surcharge upon Rs. 51, it will hit the poor and people of the middle classes. While I would agree that it may be there as a temporary remedy to enable us to tide over a difficult situation, it ought to go at the end of the year. It is unscientific and has been levied irrespective of the people's capacity to pay. The more scientific levy will be the agricultural income-tax where there is a free slab. But here it has been taken up probably as it is easy of collection along with the land revenue. Being unscientific, I would like it to be given up at the end of the year and steps should be taken in a vigorous fashion for bringing in the agricultural income-tax. The pie on every mile of bus travel will certainly hit the middle classes; it will not touch the rich as they will be having their cars nor the poor as they would walk. But the surcharge, being small, it may be pardoned. But this also must, if it could not be helped, be kept for a year only and must not be a precedent for carrying it on for the next year just as was done in the case of the sales tax. Unpopular and unwelcome taxes ought to disappear as early as possible and the Government must see if they cannot find any other expedient to replace them at the end of the year.

“Sir, as regards the Betterment Tax, I support it because persons who derive benefit should pay for it.

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"As regards enhanced tax on petrol, those persons who use motor cars should pay it and there is no difficulty about that.

"Now, I come to the expenditure side of the general administration. A pretty large amount of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 11 crores is incurred on general administration. An effective way of reducing this heavy expenditure is to decentralize the administration. An ambitious attempt was made in 1946 by the then Government to decentralize all governmental activities by constituting District Administrative Councils. According to this scheme, these District Administrative Councils will be left in charge of collecting revenues from the districts. They will have their own executive officers, engineers, medical men, etc. The only thing the State Government may be asked to do is to send their advisers or consulting engineers whenever any difficulty is experienced by the district administration. As regards revenues collected by the districts, one-half will be taken over by the districts and the other half will go to the State Government for maintaining police, engineering experts, etc. Sir, this scheme is nothing new and it is not original. It is modelled on the lines of the County Councils of England. I do not think this scheme will present any difficulty. A beginning has already been made in the Village Panchayat Act. In that Act, panchayats are given police powers and they can utilize a portion of the revenue collected by them also for making improvements in the villages. If the District Administrative Councils are constituted and given wide powers, there may not be any necessity to have 15 Ministers. Five or six Ministers will do. Also there will be plenty of savings. Therefore, I respectfully ask the Hon. Minister in charge to see if he can shape something out of the file on record. Sir, some of my suggestions may appeal to this House and the Government and some may not. Still I feel I have suggested something for the purpose of helping the Government."

* SRI P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Budget is a very presentable Budget and any Government can feel proud to have presented such a Budget. It provides for irrigation facilities at many places. It also provides for more beds in hospitals, more schools, more accommodation in schools and many other things which are the crying need of the hour and as such the Hon. Finance Minister can certainly feel proud of it.

"Sir, decontrol of foodgrains has made the people happy and they have nothing but praise for the present Ministry headed by the Hon. the Chief Minister.

"As it is, I cannot but speak about the various items mentioned in the Budget. The activities of the various departments are reflected from the amount of receipts and expenditure to the State and if expenditure exceeds the receipt, the Government are not able to balance the Budget without further taxation. In this connexion, I am just reminded—when I was a young boy—of what Prof. Winclair who was connected with the Zamorin College for some time used to say as a joke. It was like this. A gentleman

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from Kozhikode who came to Madras visited a number of places walking along the streets of Madras. When he returned to his place, he was asked by his friends to give his impression about the City of Madras. He said (in Malayalam): 'How many houses does the "To let" Sahib own?' (Tolet Sahibக்கு). எத்தனை வீடுகளை. I hope my Malayalee friends will forgive me for saying this. In those days, when there was no housing shortage here, some of the houses used to have 'To-let' sign-boards. This gentleman from Kozhikode mistook it for the name of a gentleman living in the house and so told his friends that a gentleman by name Mr. Tolet had so many houses in Madras. That joke can very well be applied to this case, for everywhere we see expenditure and most of the expenditure is consumed by the various departments of the Government. Of course it is a heritage of the past and you cannot shake it off so easily. If, for the first time, anybody or for that matter, any intelligent person is asked to frame a Budget, he will frame an acceptable Budget. I do realize that as it is, encumbrances are there; difficulties are there; discontent is there; and the Government have to overcome all these things.

"Sir, I want to say one or two things about the Budget proper before I come to the main theme of my speech to-day. My hon. Friend Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar—who is sitting next to me—wanted that the capital works should be slowed down and that the expenditure relating to it should be met from the revenue account. It is impossible to do anything in this country if you depend upon your current income alone and a poor country like ours and especially the Madras State cannot do anything in the course of even a generation. Therefore, I say all capital works must be done with borrowed capital and not by resorting to taxation.

"Now, I come to the betterment levy. This levy was proposed by the previous Government and this Government have taken it up for execution. It is proposed to levy a betterment tax not only on the benefit already derived but also on benefits to be derived hereafter. I think, it is not fair to levy tax on the benefits to be derived later on because the question of betterment comes only after the actual benefit is derived. It is quite possible that the benefit may come after 10 or 15 years hence. If this tax is levied on the benefits to be derived hereafter, it will cause great hardship to the tenants.

"Sir, some hon. Members criticized the Budget. I can only say that we can criticize any Budget framed by anybody. There is no difficulty in criticizing anything and we all know that no two minds agree. The great Tiruvalluvar said:

‘சொல்லுதல் யார்க்கும் எளிய அறியவாம்
சொல்லிய வண்ணம் செயல்’;

It is easy for anybody to criticize and to say things but it is difficult for anybody to do as he says. Therefore no purpose is served by merely criticizing others and you must mean what you say.

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“ Now, I come to my main theme, namely, village reconstruction. I do not want facilities for the villages. I am a villager myself and therefore I am in direct touch with the village people. The villagers do not want the amenities that you are likely to provide and it is also impossible for the Government to provide amenities to the innumerable villages in our State. What is wanted is the reconstruction of villages. Village reconstruction must be based on the formula that a ten-square mile area will constitute a village. Villages must be replicas of a small republic. They must have all the powers of the Government concentrated in a few villagers, headmen, or panchayats or some authority in the village. They must exercise all civil, criminal and judicial functions. They must also be entrusted with the powers of collecting taxes and spending half of the revenue for their benefit and giving the other half to the Government. If this is done, they will not expect any dole from you but on the other hand you must expect a dole from them. Also, villagers do not want your experts. They can do many things themselves. There is ‘ kudimaramath ’ and people are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel and do things. They are far superior to your officers. They can construct earthen dams without any help from your officers. Sir, if this programme is adopted the Government can reduce the huge expenditure on administration.

“ Now, I want to say one word about the Judiciary. In this connexion I am just reminded of a case where a coconut tree overhanging the compound wall of the next house. The two neighbours quarrelled over the damage caused by the coconut tree and the case finally came up before the High Court. An Indian High Court Judge before whom the case came up for hearing, declared ‘ I am ashamed that vakils should appear to argue in a case of this kind. I want this case to be compromised ’, and the case was compromised within three days. So, I say it is not a question of laying down law for all generations. We are anxious to go to the High Court even for trivial matters. My hon. Friend Mr. Bhashyam also referred to this matter and said that thousands of appeals are pending as arrears before the High Court for disposal. We can prevent the filing of appeals in the High Court if we change the law. Villagers should be asked to settle the disputes among themselves. Village headman or a group of men respected by the villagers and considered to be impartial men should be appointed as arbitrators. Then village quarrels will cease to exist. Also, if you like, you can group a number of villages into one administrative unit. Let this be a replica of the Indian republic.

“ Sir, I want that big cities and towns should be depopulated as there is overcrowding. Unnecessary things are concentrated in the cities. There are so many mills in Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore. Why do you want mills in cities only? You can have mills in places far away from the cities and thus reduce the population in the cities. Sir, in this City all Government offices are here. All the colleges are here. Why do you want all the colleges here? They can be scattered in different places. I can

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understand the Legislative Council Chamber being here. I can also understand the Legislative Assembly being here but I cannot understand the Office of the Inspector-General of Registration being here. It can be located somewhere outside the City. Also, why should more hospitals be located in Madras? I am not saying that there should be no hospitals in Madras. Why not some of these hospitals be located in places like Gudiyatham which is 100 miles from Madras. Why do you want to deprive Gudiyatham of this medical facility? Because you concentrate all important things in one place like Madras, Chingleput and North Arcot districts have been depopulated and this has led to the impoverishment of the people there. There is no use asking the people to go back to the villages. Nobody would go. If you shift some of the offices, mills, colleges and hospitals to places in the mufassal, then people will automatically move.

5-45 P.M. " Then, Sir, before I sit down I have to say one or two things more, and that is with reference to Prohibition. There are two aspects regarding Prohibition. One is that it is a vice and you ought not to tax vice and use it and the other is, that we are using compulsion to prevent people from drinking. We are taxing vice if we scrap Prohibition; we do not want that tax and that tax should not be used for any purpose. I have to mention now that ever so many people have taken to drink. I do not say it has become a cottage industry; but, I say that it has become a great vice in the villages. Hitherto men alone were drinking; now even women and children have begun to drink. It is not as if they are all going to the shop, purchase liquor there, bring it home and drink. It is not so—but it is so easy to get a drink, as it is prepared at home now. I am quite unfamiliar with the method of how it is being prepared at home. I do not know the ingredients of that drink. I hear the barks of trees and shells of coconut are boiled and a juice is extracted from them and it becomes an intoxicant, though it is of a bad and crude type and very harmful to health. You want to use compulsion to prevent people from drinking. These people are the people of whom Tiruvalluvar, the great poet, has said :

“இருமனப் பெண்டிரும் கள்ளும் கவறும்
திரு நீக்கப்பட்டார் தொடர்பு.”

Those that do not want prosperity, namely, those spurned by Goddess Lakshmi, take to prostitutes, drink and gambling with avidity. So, Sir, we can never obliterate drink. All the same, we can try to wean them from the habit by propaganda and through films showing how the human body is wrecked and falls a prey to several diseases. If the villagers unite together and make a united effort to see that drink does not raise its ugly head Prohibition can be enforced more successfully than now. They will be able to control more effectively the people who misbehave.

“ Now, Sir, I have only one other matter to state and that is about the palmyra trees in the Tirunelveli district. I am told, and I believe it is true, that palmyra tree is taxed only in Tirunelveli

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district. If this is true I would request the Hon. Minister for Finance to abolish this tax. The palmyra tree is known as 'Karpaka' tree. It gives all the things which a family requires for its existence. If a man owns 100 such trees, provided they are all fruit yielding, he can get on in this world without any other means of livelihood. This tree gives juice which is drinkable. If the tax is removed then the poor people can take to this drink freely. I hope the present Ministry will abolish this tax on palmyra tree in Tirunelveli district.

"Before I sit down I wish to know what has become of the library cess that Government have been collecting all along. To my knowledge, no library has been opened, nor has the Director for that been appointed. I doubt whether that cess has been utilized at all."

* SRI E. H. PARAMESWARAN :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the Budget that has been presented by the Hon. the Chief Minister. At the very outset, I feel it my duty to say that on a review of the several actions of the Government during the last few months and the proposals contained in the Budget, we have every reason to congratulate the Government. I also feel that any unbiassed person will have no doubt in declaring that he should be proud of the achievements of the Government during the last few months that it has been in office.

"First and foremost, come the measures adopted by the Government to combat the famine in Rayalaseema. We are very glad that the great crisis produced by the famine in Rayalaseema has been tided over by the very prompt measures taken by the Government and also by the combined efforts of non-official agencies and the people of the locality. Now that the crisis is over, Sir, people are likely to forget that it was something unprecedented in its nature and intensity. The Hon. Finance Minister has pointed out that on a rough calculation about six crores of rupees have been spent on relief to the famine-stricken people in Rayalaseema. He has also explained that but for the unexpected expenditure of six crores there would have been no deficit Budget and there would have been no need to think of additional sources of taxation.

"Here, I wish also to say that the Government have taken time by the forelock to rush to the help of weavers. I remember, that at the last session of the Assembly and the Council, many hon. Members referred to the precarious plight of the handloom weavers and said that unless something radical was done by Government, this great handloom industry would go to ruin. We are very glad that the Government have taken prompt and adequate measures in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and now many weavers feel that there is hope for them. The Hon. the Finance Minister has said that irrespective of the cost, Government are prepared to implement the proposals and they are prepared to bring forward a supplementary Budget later on. I am glad Government have taken prompt measures.

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" Another matter on which several members have congratulated Government now is the food policy of the Government. I remember when the Hon. the Chief Minister first announced through the radio that they have at last decided upon decontrol, there was a thrill of joy and satisfaction throughout the country. All classes of people, rich and poor, land-owner and merchant, all combined in offering their congratulations to Rajaji on his far-sightedness and statesmanship. Millions of people to-day feel an inexpressible joy and they feel as if they have gained a new freedom. All the same, I am conscious of the fact, that here and there voices of protest have been raised and, I remember, how a distinguished person like Pandit Kunzru characterized the reversal of the food policy of the Madras Government, as having been based on political opportunism divorced from all logic and economic facts. Pandit Kunzru has also very vehemently criticised it as what he called the intuition economics of our leader, Rajaji, and as a gamble with the lives of the people. I can only say to a leader like Pandit Kunzru, 'please go to the shums of the urban area, please go to the thousands of villages in the State of Madras and see with your own eyes the great jubilation among all classes of people.' I can say with due deference to Pandit Kunzru and other people who have criticised the food policy of the Madras Government that no single measure during recent years has been universally welcomed by all classes of people as decontrol of foodgrains.

" I have always felt that our leader Rajaji is noted for his courage and for the lead he gives to the country on various occasions. I am reminded of his act in the matter of accepting Ministerial Responsibility under the Government of India Act, 1935. I am also reminded that it was he who gave the lead with regard to Prohibition. Hon. Members have expressed their opinion regarding Prohibition. I do not want here to go into the fact whether it is a success or otherwise. Then, it was he who gave the lead with regard to the levy of the sales tax. And now, I feel supremely happy he has adopted decontrol of foodgrains. It is being followed by State after State now all over India. I hope all classes of people will co-operate with the policy of the Government, and that the confidence placed by the Government on the people and the trade will be eminently justified.

" Now, Sir, I wish to say one or two words with respect to Malabar. The hon. Member, Mr. Govinda Menon, the other day, made an appeal to the Government to see that fair price shops in Malabar and in the Nilgiris are kept running throughout the year. There is always a mentality to make profits when foodgrains are in short supply and therefore it is we say that fair price shops should be run in the deficit districts throughout the year.

" Then, I wish to congratulate Government on their policy with regard to major schemes of irrigation. We have been assured by the Hon. the Finance Minister that major schemes like the Tungabhadra Project, the Lower Bhavani Project, the Malampuzha Project and the Manimuthar Project will not be slowed down. The

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common people all over the land feel that Government will be committing a great mistake if they slowed down these schemes now; because large sums of money have already been spent on them, the officers and machinery are already there, and so there is no meaning in slowing down those projects already started. We are glad to find the Government of India have allotted the maximum amount of one crore to the Malampuzha Project. I hope Government will see to it that not even a part of the grant is allowed to lapse.

"Another subject on which I wish to congratulate Government is the concession given to non-gazetted officers, local board employees and to the teachers in aided elementary schools and secondary schools. Hon. Members will remember that while speaking here on the last occasion, I made an appeal to the Government to extend the concession given to non-gazetted officers, to all teachers also. I am very glad that as a stroke of statesmanship Government have extended the concession to teachers working in elementary schools and secondary schools. It has produced a great psychological satisfaction among teachers. I hope this is a step in the right direction and I also hope that this is the first step in the implementation of the policy of free and compulsory education for all children of the land between the ages of five and fourteen as contemplated in Article 45 of the Indian Constitution. Even if the Government give this concession to other children in schools, it will be only implementing this Article of the Constitution.

"While thanking Government for giving fee concession, I have to make one or two requests. While they gave the fee concession to the children of teachers in local board employ, they forgot all about the children of teachers in special schools, training schools, Montessori schools, in schools for the deaf, dumb and blind and the basic educational schools. I take it that this concession will be made applicable to the teachers working in those schools. I request Government to make it clear that the concession applies to them also. I would also appeal to the Government earnestly to make the concession available to all children of teachers working in aided colleges. Probably it was not brought to the notice of the Government that the tutors, demonstrators, assistant lecturers, etc., working in aided colleges are drawing very low salaries. Their salaries are very poor and they also deserve the benefit of this concession. Sir, the teachers working in the special schools and the colleges need and deserve this concession and I would request the Government not to mind the small extra sums which would be involved in extending the concessions to them also.

6 p.m.

"I thought of saying something about elementary education, but as the time at my disposal is very short, I will try to be as brief as possible. Elementary education is under the control of local bodies and private managements and the South Indian Teachers' Union has been feeling that local bodies are not given adequate funds by the Government, and private managements which are in a precarious condition will not be able to do anything. I, therefore, request the Government to have a definite plan with

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regard to elementary education. Thirty-eight lakhs of children are in elementary schools to-day and about 35 lakhs have to be put into schools. Only if about 3 to 4 lakhs of children are brought into the schools every year according to a definite plan, we can think of implementing the programme contemplated in Article 45 of the Constitution. The South Indian Teachers' Union at its provincial conference at Coimbatore in May 1952 passed a resolution that a committee may be appointed to go into the question of agency, finance, supervision and control with regard to elementary education. I am not suggesting that the Government should take up the whole of elementary education but the time has come, Sir, for reviewing the whole question and the Government can have a departmental enquiry or appoint a Commission to go into the whole matter. So also, with regard to secondary education, I was thinking of suggesting the appointment of a committee but the Government of India have already appointed a Secondary Education Commission and we are very glad and very proud also that our distinguished countryman, Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar has been appointed as the Chairman of this Commission. With regard to the secondary school teachers, I feel, I cannot congratulate the Government though I have congratulated the Government with regard to several other matters. Time and again, Sir, we of the South Indian Teachers' Union have drawn the attention of the Government to the steady deterioration in the quality of persons seeking admission to training schools and colleges and to the fact that good and capable teachers are leaving the schools for good because they have not been able to make both ends meet from their meagre income. This is a danger spot and a warning to the Government. The South Indian Teachers' Union, therefore, on the 25th December 1951, made a special appeal to His Excellency the Governor requesting him to go into the question of the scales of salary of the secondary school teachers and requesting that at least the scales of salary of the lowest paid teachers might be looked into and something done. The Hon. the Minister for Education from several platforms gave assurances in February and March 1952 that this question was being looked into. I remember, Sir, the Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty, speaking as the Finance Minister, saying on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that the revision of the scales of salaries of teachers was under active consideration. So, teachers in elementary schools and secondary schools were eagerly expecting that something substantial would be done for the amelioration of their lot.

"Now, Sir, calmly and coolly and with very great courage, the Government have said that they have come to a decision not to revise the scales of salaries of teachers because of the very difficult financial condition. They have also in a communication addressed to the South Indian Teachers' Union said that the Government are considering and exploring how relief could be given to the teachers in other directions. The teachers are very disappointed. There is acute disappointment and a sense of frustration among them. This

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sense of frustration is certainly a danger to education. As it is getting late, I would content myself with suggesting to the Government that pending a general revision of the scales of salary of all teachers, the Government may kindly consider the following :—

(1) Abolition of the invidious distinction in the salary scales between teachers working under different managements;

(2) adoption of the Government scales of salary for teachers in aided institutions and local bodies;

(3) revision of the scales of pay of teachers in elementary and secondary schools;

(4) grant of house-rent allowance to teachers in urban areas ;
and

(5) security of tenure to elementary and secondary school teachers.

Security of tenure is not a thing which will entail any expenditure on the part of Government. It is a very important matter. Every teacher working in a college, high school or elementary school should always feel secure that the authority of the Government is behind him and that no manager will be able to send him out at the end of the year. I have been told by a number of teachers, even as recently as yesterday, that when they went to the school after the reopening they were told that their services were not required. I have got their letters with me even now. I would therefore request the Government to pay attention to the security of service of teachers.

“ I do not want to speak anything about the Budget proposals because several hon. Members have already pointed out that the Budget has to be balanced though some hon. Members said yesterday and the day before that the Budget need not be balanced and the deficit need not be covered. Just as the credit of an individual depends upon balancing his income and expenditure, the credit of the Government also depends on balancing its Budget and the credit of a Government is an important matter. The Hon. the Chief Minister has pointed out the importance of maintaining the credit of the Government. Taxes have, therefore, got to be levied and I will only request the Government to consider whether the surcharge on bus fares could be changed into something else, for example, collecting a tax from the owners of buses according to the seating capacity of the buses.

“ With regard to land revenue, I feel that the exemption limit of Rs. 50 is too low. It should be raised to Rs. 150 or at least Rs. 100.

“ Finally, Sir, I feel that a stable Government is necessary for the prosperity of the country. We feel very glad that the Legislative Assembly has voted the motion of confidence by a strong and clear majority and given sanction to the Government to go ahead with its various beneficial schemes.

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"Sir, I wish to say one thing about the Preamble to the Constitution. Our Constitution is something unique. Liberty, Fraternity and Equality were the watchwords of the French revolutionaries and these formed the basis of the French Constitution. These three also formed the basis of the American Constitution but our great Constitution has gone one step further because our Preamble says we have established a sovereign democratic republic to secure justice, social, economic and political along with Fraternity, Liberty and Equality. Let us always remember this ideal of justice in everything that we do, in framing our educational policy, in framing our Budget and in framing our taxation proposals. I appeal to the Government, to the Opposition and to the Members of this House to remember in everything that we do this ideal of a Welfare State and that we should fulfil our objective to secure to all the citizens justice, social, economic and political."

SRI T. PRAKASAM :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to speak on this occasion with a view to make this House understand and also the country outside this House understand where the people of this land stand to-day and what their position is economically and politically and what their duty is in dealing with the present situation. I may request the hon. Members of this House to consider the economic situation of the country as a whole and of this State in particular. Can it be said that the present economic situation can be improved and the present economic distress can be removed by Sri Rajagopalachari and his Cabinet or by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his Cabinet? Where are the people, where are the rulers to-day and where are the opportunities for the people to set right matters and get control over their own affairs? I am speaking, Sir, not with a view to launch some attack against Sri C. Rajagopalachari for the position he has taken in this State to-day. I am appealing to him, to his associates and to others to consider where this country is to-day economically and whether there is any chance for him or for those who are above him to get justice for the people? Some hon. Friends remarked some time ago 'Why did Mr. Prakasam come through the backdoor?' Prakasam has come through the backdoor because he has been anxious to do service to his country even through the backdoor and even with the little opportunities he might get. He has not come through the backdoor with a view to get some office, to get some job for himself or for his comrades although he is said to be leading a party. As he has all along been standing for, Prakasam stands for getting justice for the people. He is not standing for getting justice done for himself or for his own comrades."

"Constitutional issues had arisen in the past, Sir, when the right of speech, the right of tabling resolution before the Assembly were denied by the Congress High Command and also by the Government. I was a victim myself and not anybody else."

6-15 p.m. "To-day, Sir, a crisis has arisen in the country. That crisis relates to the right which the people of this State claim to have"

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under the Constitution. Can anybody say now, Sir, that the present economic position of the country can be solved? Can Sri C. Rajagopalachari or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or his advisers and experts say that the economic position of the country can be solved and poverty of the people removed by them, under our Constitution as it is, and on the lines on which they are now proceeding? I have been asserting that it is not possible for a million Jawaharlal Nehrus or a million Rajagopalacharis or a million experts to solve the problems relating to the poor people of this country unless the whole system of Government and all their policies are changed? I do not grudge the congratulations given to Mr. Rajagopalachari. I am one of those who was very glad when Mr. C. Rajagopalachari announced the policy of decontrol. I am glad, Sir, that Mr. Rajagopalachari had made a statement saying that after he announced the policy of decontrol, he could see the liberty of the people with his own eyes. Freedom is a thing which is sacred to every one of us. Freedom is a thing which cannot be purchased for any value in a market. I do not take that Mr. C. Rajagopalachari or his comrades had the opportunity to know the value of freedom in relation to controls. I was in charge of a Ministry, for a short time no doubt. Even after I went out of office what did I see with regard to the operation of controls? There was no freedom anywhere. On one occasion, Sir, I was travelling in a train, and I saw at a particular railway station a large number of policemen with guns in their hands ready to pounce upon people carrying small headloads of rice. I saw some women getting down the train feeling that they would be safe in getting down there with their headloads of rice. Immediately the police pounced on them and removed from them the bundles of rice. One small girl travelling with me put the bundle below her and sat upon it. Even that girl was forced out of the train by the Police. Immediately I got down from the train, went to the Police Officer in charge and asked him as to why they were behaving like this. He said 'That is our orders.' That is the sort of Government going on under the control system. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari did not know how people were suffering. Doing away with the control on foodgrains is not the only thing that is wanted. People must become free at some time or other. Controls were introduced during the war for war purposes. After the war was over, there was no need for the controls to continue, even for one or two years. For seven long years these controls were continued in this State after the war was over, and all kinds of offences were committed by the officers. Therefore it is natural that people should feel glad that controls were removed by Sri C. Rajagopalachari. We were also watching how this step was taken. One day suddenly the Minister in charge of Food, Mr. Kidwai, came to Madras and had consultations with Sri C. Rajagopalachari. They had discussions about the position of rice and wheat. Somehow Mr. Kidwai left it to Mr. Rajagopalachari to deal with the situation. Mr. Rajagopalachari dealt with the situation because the situation warranted it. The situation

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impressed upon him that this was the only way in which relief could be given to the people.

"I have watched the economic situation of the country for a good number of years. Why have the prices of all commodities fallen recently? The Hon. Finance Minister is laughing at my statement. I have not stated anything against Sri C. Rajagopalachari or against him. Did the Madras Government reduce the prices? Did the Government of India headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru move its little finger to reduce the prices? The prices fell because they could not continue to stay any longer at that artificial level, at which they were kept by the Government. The prices had gone to the highest limit and could not go beyond that limit. Naturally they had to come down. Can anybody say that the common people were allowed to enjoy the benefits of reduced prices? I am charging the Government with the fullest responsibility, and the Government of India as well, for what they had done, soon after the prices fell. The Government at once applied artificial methods to lift the prices of foodgrains. That is why the whole trouble started in Bombay and in other places. The Government are criminally responsible for the methods which they have employed to raise the prices to the detriment of the interests of the common man. I have, therefore, come here through the backdoor to explain to you and through you the millions of people outside these things. That is my duty. I do not grudge any praise to Mr. Rajagopalachari. We had worked together, we had worked against each other, we had worked to destroy each other. Only we did not succeed in all these matters. This is the first point I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House, particularly to the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and his Finance Minister Sri C. Subramaniam. Where is the country now? How can you expect this country to come out of the trouble unless and until the debt created by this Government or through the negligence of this Government is cleared? I am a man who is trying to understand things from a practical point of view. In this country from 1861, for 53 long years, we were having no currency trouble on account of the rise in prices or fall in prices. In 1861, there was the Paper Currency Act. Under that Act, only four crores of rupees were exempted from the operations of that Act. Those four crores related to Government securities. Whatever paper currency was issued there was metallic security for it. That was the position of the Government and the people then. That was how the people's interests were protected.

"What is a paper currency? At the end of every month, we receive a certain number of currency notes as our salary for sitting here and doing this business. In the currency note it is written, 'I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of Rs. . . .'. It is a Government note. They guarantee that if we present it at a bank, it will give us silver or gold whichever we prefer.

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" For 53 years from 1861 onwards, the circulation of notes was only 44 crores of rupees. And that circulation could not be disturbed and it continued for 53 long years without any disturbance. I have lived long enough in this world; I have seen poor people getting low salaries of Rs. 8 and Rs. 10, either from the Government or the zamindar, living without any grumbling. People go on because there was no fraud committed upon them; there were no fluctuations; the markets and the prices were steady . . . "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I think the hon. Member could continue his speech to-morrow."

SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Yes, I have no objection, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" It has been represented to me that the time announced for the election to the State Library Committee, namely 11 a.m., is not convenient to hon. Members. I have, therefore, changed the time to 2 p.m. to 3-30 p.m. to-morrow for the polling.

" The House stands adjourned to meet again to-morrow, the 9th July 1952 at 4 p.m."

The House adjourned.

